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- a) a housing having a receptacle which receives the ampoule;
- b) a light source which transmits light at a first intensity level into said receptacle;
- c) a detector which detects at least some of said light transmitted into said receptacle; and
- d) a control means for automatically determining when said light detected is at a predetermined percentage of said first intensity level of said light, said control means including a memory provided with a look-up table relating a time required for performing a test on the ampoule in said apparatus and a biological activity in the ampoule at a start of the test.

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15. (rewritten) A method of analyzing contents of an ampoule, the ampoule containing a sample and a reagent which changes color when a predetermined level of biological activity is present in the sample, said method comprising:

- a) recording a maximum intensity of light transmitted through said ampoule by transmitting light at a predetermined wavelength at regular intervals and identifying when said intensity of light transmitted through said ampoule stops increasing;
- b) identifying a first time;
- c) transmitting light at the predetermined wavelength through said ampoule;
- d) identifying an end time relative to said first time at which an intensity of said light transmitted at said predetermined

wavelength through the ampoule is at a predetermined percentage of said maximum intensity of light; and

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e) automatically determining from said end time a level of biological activity present in the sample at said first time.

Please add new claims 23-26, as follows:

23. (new) A light analyzer apparatus for use with an ampoule, comprising:

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a) a housing having a receptacle which receives the ampoule;
b) a light source which transmits light at a first intensity level into said receptacle;
c) a detector which detects at least some of said light transmitted into said receptacle, said detector and said light source being located on axially opposite sides of said receptacle; and
d) a control means for automatically determining when said light detected is at a predetermined percentage of said first intensity level of said light.

24. (new) A light analyzer apparatus for use with an ampoule, comprising:

a) a housing having a receptacle which receives the ampoule and a cover movable between open and closed positions, wherein in said closed position said cover substantially completely shields said receptacle from ambient light;

b) a light source which transmits light at a first intensity level into said receptacle;

c) a detector which detects at least some of said light transmitted into said receptacle, said detector and said light source being located on axially opposite sides of said receptacle; and

d) a control means for automatically determining when said light detected is at a predetermined percentage of said first intensity level of said light.

25. (new) A method of analyzing contents of an ampoule, the ampoule containing a sample and a reagent which changes color when a predetermined level of biological activity is present in the sample, said method comprising:

a) recording a maximum intensity of light transmitted through said ampoule;

b) identifying a first time;

c) transmitting light at a predetermined wavelength axially through said ampoule;

d) identifying an end time relative to said first time at which an intensity of said light transmitted at said predetermined wavelength through the ampoule is at a predetermined percentage of said maximum intensity of light; and

e) automatically determining from said end time a level of biological activity present in the sample at said first time.

26. (new) A method of analyzing contents of an ampoule, the ampoule containing a sample and a reagent which changes color when a predetermined level of biological activity is present in the sample, said method comprising:

- a) recording a maximum intensity of light transmitted through said ampoule;
- b) identifying a first time;
- c) transmitting light at a predetermined wavelength axially through said ampoule;
- d) identifying an end time relative to said first time at which an intensity of said light transmitted at said predetermined wavelength through the ampoule is at a predetermined percentage of said maximum intensity of light; and
- e) automatically determining from said end time a level of biological activity present in the sample at said first time, said automatically determining including referencing a look-up table in a memory.

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 5 and 16 have been canceled, without prejudice, with their limitations being incorporated into claims 1 and 15 respectively, as discussed in detail below.